

## From Glamour to Grammar

In his home country of Venezuela, Israel Bilancieri was well-known.

He was the expert whom movie stars and TV celebrities called on to make them look as beautiful as possible. In fact, he was so good at what he did that his services were requested in places as far away as Argentina, Spain, and even China.

When he joined the Church in 1988, he owned a thriving business with 27 employees. In 1989, he immigrated to the United States.

During his life, Israel has met with his share of trials. His nine-year-old daughter was diagnosed with a cancerous tumor. Another daughter was born with Down's syndrome. He, himself, has had two heart surgeries and eight bypasses.

Through each of these trials, Israel has found comfort, hope, and peace through prayer.

Even though he is now 67 years old, Israel still has a dream of opening another studio, this time in the United States.

"My problem is that English comes slowly to me," he admits. "I knew that it would be difficult to go into business if I couldn't speak English, and so I went to my bishop and asked for his counsel."

The bishop realized that part of the problem was that it was too easy for Israel to go through the day speaking only his native tongue. He also knew that Israel was looking for a job.

The bishop remembered that Deseret Industries offered excellent training and support

for those wanting to learn English, and so he filled out an approval form and urged Israel to investigate.

It wasn't long before Israel was put to work.

As part of his personal development plan, Israel attends English instruction sessions at Deseret Industries twice a week. In addition, he has multiple opportunities to speak English throughout the day.

"It is still coming slowly," Israel admits, "but I am learning."

And he is not the only one.

As Deseret Industries discovered more about Israel's background and skills, they became interested in having him teach others about personal grooming. Israel was delighted and is now teaching a group of 12 others who work at Deseret Industries the importance of dress and appearance.

"I think it is making a difference," he says. "I feel that I am growing myself and, at the same time, I am making a difference in the lives of others."

There is a saying that what goes around comes around, and, in Israel Bilancieri's case, that appears to be true. For years, Israel devoted his time and talents to making others look good. Today, he is confident that his experience at Deseret Industries will have a similar effect on him.

